

Charter schools: Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP)

Literature review updated August 2013.

As part of WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies, WSIPP determines "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using an approach called meta-analysis. For detail on our methods, see our [technical documentation](#). At this time, WSIPP has not yet calculated benefits and costs for this topic.

Program Description: The Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) is a network of public charter schools serving more than 41,000 students in 20 states and the District of Columbia. The schools predominantly enroll low-income and minority students. The studies included in this analysis are of KIPP middle schools around the country. Three studies report outcomes for individual KIPP schools, while the fourth study uses the average impact of 41 schools from 14 states. One study uses a lottery-based research approach; the three other studies used a matched comparison design. The evidence suggests that KIPP charter schools improve test scores in both reading and math more consistently than charter schools in general. We present the findings for reading scores here.

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	Primary or secondary participant	No. of effect sizes	Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)		Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis					
					First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
			ES	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Test scores	Primary	9	0.106	0.028	0.106	0.048	11	0.076	0.053	17
High school grad via test scores	Primary	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.020	0.014	17	0.020	0.014	17

Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Angrist, J.D., Dynarski, S.M., Kane, T.J., Pathak, P.A., & Walters, C.R. (2012). *Who benefits from KIPP?* *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1002/pam.21647.
- Ross, S. M., McDonald, A. J., Alberg, M., & McSparrin-Gallagher, B. (2007). Achievement and Climate Outcomes for the Knowledge Is Power Program in an Inner-City Middle School. *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk*, 12(2): 137-165.
- Tuttle, C.C., Gill, B., Gleason, P., Knechtel, V., Nicholas-Barrer, I., & Resch, A. (2013). *KIPP middle schools: Impacts on achievement and other outcomes*. Washington DC: Mathematica Policy Research.
- Woodworth, K.R., David, J.L., Guha, R., Wang, H., & Lopez-Torkos, A. (2008). *San Francisco Bay area KIPP schools: A study of early implementation and achievement (Final Report)*. Menlo Park, CA: SRI International.

For further information, contact:
(360) 586-2677, institute@wsipp.wa.gov

Printed on 11-21-2014